



# The ARK

October 2001

Virginia Federation of Humane Societies

## Day of Infamy: Lessons Learned From a National Tragedy

The events that occurred on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, have written a new chapter in our nation's history. A bright summer morning that dawned calm and clear soon was engulfed in the aftermath of the horrific tragedy that occurred when hijacked planes crashed into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Thousands of lives were changed in an instant, and reverberations of this terrible tragedy were felt around the world.

Animal shelters in the immediate areas of New York City and Washington DC quickly prepared for a possible influx of animals. Many people in lower Manhattan took their pets with them when they were ordered to leave the endangered area. Later others were escorted back to their homes to retrieve pets left behind. An American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Humane Law Enforcement officer climbed 38 flights of stairs to rescue a gecko for its concerned owner.

Soon concerns arose regarding pets left in cargos of airplanes that were grounded following the terrorist attacks.

Thoughts turned to pets owned by the victims injured or killed in the hijacked airplanes, and those persons injured or killed in the collapse of the Twin Towers and the damaged Pentagon.

The ASPCA rescued and reunited more than 200 animals in the wake of the World Trade Center tragedy. The Center for Animal Care and Control helped over 300 pet owners in reuniting with their pets. Even though these agencies continue to follow up on unconfirmed reports of stranded animals we may never know the total number of pets and pet owners affected by the tragedy that occurred on September 11th.

Typically we have dealt with natural disasters, such as hurricanes and floods, which provide some warning. The recent terrorist attacks opened our eyes to a new kind of disaster, one that can occur with no warning at all. We can no longer afford to procrastinate in making plans to respond to animals affected by these types of events.

What would you do if a disaster occurred in your area? Are you prepared to respond on short notice to a building

collapse, a train derailment, a gas or chemical leak? Do you know where you would take your animals if you had to evacuate your shelter? The time to plan for such emergencies is now. When a disaster occurs there is no time to prepare and organize a response.

October is Fire Prevention Month. Find time in the next several weeks to check the fire extinguishers and smoke detectors in your shelters. Decide how and where you would relocate the animals in your shelter if an evacuation is necessary. Your local emergency personnel can provide helpful suggestions and guidance. Now is a good time to become acquainted with these individuals.

When you have laid the foundation for caring for your shelter animals in an emergency you can begin thinking about how you can respond to the needs of animals in your communities in the event of a disaster in your area. While the events of September 11th are fresh in everyone's mind let us make good use of the lessons learned.

## Member Organizations Respond to West Virginia Disaster

Torrential rains caused heavy flooding in West Virginia in mid-July. In two of the counties hardest hit there were no animal shelters. In another county the animal shelter was swept away in the raging floodwaters.

Several national organizations were quick to respond to the desperate needs of the animals. The Humane Society of the United States helped to set up a temporary shelter near the flooded area. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals assisted in relief

efforts as well. The Emergency Animal Rescue Service of United Animal Nations set up a temporary shelter at Twin Falls State Park.

Member organizations responded to a hotline appeal from the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies to provide needed equipment and supplies. Several groups provided leashes and collars. Other groups sent monetary donations.

A special "Thank You" goes out to these thoughtful organizations. It is in

the spirit of caring and sharing wherein lies the strength of our Federation.

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#### Laws/Legislation

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### A Tribute to Walt Lane

To remember Walt Lane is to rejoice! Brave spirit; tireless defender of animals; an inspiration to animal people; to animal abusers a persistent gadfly, a thorn-in-the-flesh, an opponent to be reckoned with.

To list all of Walt's accomplishments would take a volume. Perhaps his most far-reaching accomplishment was his successful pursuit of mandatory rules and regulations for pounds. At the time Walt began to pursue these rules and regulations, many of the pounds were sub-standard with extreme cruelty of every imaginable and unimaginable sort—or non-existent. Walt was a member of the committee assigned to hold hearings throughout the Commonwealth to establish the final set of regulations.

After the regulations became law, Walt worked with Harry Bosen, the Federation's attorney and Leroy Bowen, DVM, State Animal Welfare Veterinarian to take thirty boards of supervisors to court to force compliance. Walt also conducted workshops twice a year for ten years for animal control officers and others. Over 2,000 individuals attended these workshops. Walt traveled thousands miles to help animals and people; wrote miles of letters and reports; made untold telephone calls, and gave unstintingly of himself and his expertise. He also loved a good party, a good joke, an evening at the theatre and a good conversation at any time on any subject. He will be missed.

From a tribute by Liz Sills,  
former VFHS president

### Mary Warner

Mary Warner, founder of *Action 81* has died. *Action 81* referred to US Interstate 81 which saw heavy traffic in vehicles carrying abducted pets to auctions where they would be sold for research purposes. The organization unceasingly sought to trace these lost pets and return them to their owners.

Before her death, Mary was honored by having the Clarke County shelter named for her.

## VFHS and HSUS Join Forces in Shelter-Pound Outreach Project

House Bill 1514 (Morgan) that passed during the 2000 General Assembly provides the Department of Agriculture with the ability to impose civil penalties against pounds and animal shelters that are not in compliance with the regulations and the laws that govern these facilities. During the 2001 General Assembly, House Bill 1765 (Bryant) was introduced to delay the effective date of this legislation until January 1, 2002.

We are delighted to inform you that pounds and animal shelters across the state are working steadily and successfully toward compliance. In joining forces with The Humane Society of the United States we have been able to work with localities and organizations that have compliance issues. We have been working closely with the Virginia Association of Counties and the Department of Agriculture to identify the areas that need assistance. To date Kate Pullen, HSUS and Teresa Dockery,

VFHS have traveled the state meeting with groups and localities and are seeing remarkable progress. Shelters in thirty nine municipalities and/or organizations are either building new facilities, remodeling current facilities, or have completed improvements. This list continues to grow. Since beginning this project in November of 2000 we have provided a multitude of services to localities. A few of these services include:

- Reviewing local ordinances and policies to identify funding sources and ways of improving shelter operations.
- Assisting with shelter designs.
- Providing sources for shelter materials and supplies.
- Providing educational materials on a multitude of shelter related topics.
- Building coalitions between animal welfare communities and localities.
- Serving on shelter planning committees.

- Donating materials and supplies to rural facilities. Some of the items that were donated include a heating unit for a rural pound, computers, dog resting beds, live animal traps, litter pans and food bowls.
- Providing scholarships for animal control officers to attend the Virginia Animal Control Association's annual conference.

Future plans include:

- Providing on-site training for the animal control officers and staff of rural facilities. Training will be structured to meet the requirements for continuing education credits for animal control officers.
- Providing regional training on animal care and control issues for shelter staff and animal control officers.
- Raising funds to aid localities with building, remodeling and obtaining the equipment and supplies needed to be in compliance.
- Speaking at the Association of Counties' annual conference on shelter improvements. Providing low-cost spay and neuter services to areas where it is not currently available.

The Federation worked diligently during the 1980s to see that the pound regulations were established. After almost 20 years it appears that we will see our initial goal of compliance become a reality.

**The new Spotsylvania Animal Control facility contains the Virginia Kincheloe Spay and Neuter Clinic.**



## VFHS Provides Support for ACO Training

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services recently conducted its most extensive practical and classroom training course for animal control officers who must provide emergency support for animals in vehicle accidents or who may have to care for animals in their possession pending cruelty cases.

Course instruction included nutrition, medical care, animal psychology, and breed identification. Participants received extensive hands-on training with both horses and cattle, learning how to capture,

handle, and perform body condition scoring, along with bandaging horses and loading animals on trailers. They also learned how to accurately measure the blood pressure, temperature, and respiration of the animals. Dr. C. J.

Robinson, who conducted the training, tranquilized some animals to demonstrate the change in their behavior. She then trained officers to safely and effectively handle the tranquilized animals.

Most of the participating officers had little or no large animal experience before attending the course. They were required

to demonstrate competency in handling the animals and pass examinations to receive continuing education credits. All officers passed the course successfully.

The Federation provided support for this training by providing funds originating from the Virginia Horse Industry Board and the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation for the purchase of manuals on horse care and by appropriating money for the purchase of stethoscopes and weight tapes. The Federation received a letter of appreciation from the officers attending this workshop.

## 2001 VFHS Conference Summary

Neither fog, nor wind-driven rain, nor darkness of night prevented the arrival of attendees for the Annual Conference of the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies, March 30 and 31, 2001. Sponsored by the **ASPCA**, **HSUS**, **NSALAmerica**, and **PETsmART Charities**, with workshops presented by speakers from these national organizations, this year's conference was one of the most successful in the history of the Federation.

Dense fog that shrouded the peaks of Afton Mountain gave way to sunshine by mid-day Friday providing breathtaking views of both the Shenandoah and Rockfish Valleys from the Inn at Afton near Waynesboro, VA. Following registration and a continental breakfast, the day began with a presentation of "LESS", legislation, education, and sterilization, solutions to problems of pet overpopulation, by Federation officers. Throughout the remainder of that day and Saturday perennial favorites including Connie Howard, Julie Morris, Kate



Jean Duggan and Bonnie Ellen of Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society show off the new net they won as a door prize.

Pullen, and Tammy Kirkpatrick, as well as newcomers including Dr. Marie Suthers-McCabe, Betsy McFarland, Gaby Janus, and Sam Marsteller captivated workshop participants with presentations on a variety of topics pertinent to the field of animal welfare.

Everyone who attended **101 Great Program Ideas** presented by Connie Howard, AHA, and Julie Morris, ASPCA, came away energized with innovative ideas for their agency.

Much enthusiasm was expressed, as well, regarding the concept of **Early Age Spaying and Neutering** as presented by Kay Gross, DVM, president of the Richmond Spay/Neuter Foundation. The demonstration workshops always are well received and a lot of interest was shown in the workshops on **Animal Behavior and Animal Handling** presented by Tammy Kirkpatrick of NSALAmerica, with the able assistance of Janine Wolf.

Among the most popular workshops were those on **Inspecting Animal Facilities and Animal Cruelty Investigations** presented by Sam Marsteller of the ASPCA. Bob Ruth, DVM, with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, presented an interesting workshop on **Emergency First Aid for Animals**, while Marie Suthers-McCabe, DVM, of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, provided convincing documentation to support the need for **Safe Housing Animals in Domestic Violence Situations**.

There was such a wealth of information on **Maintaining Healthy Shelter Animals** presented by Kate Pullen, of The Humane Society of the United States, that participants wished it could have lasted longer. Gaby Janus and Betsy McFarland, also of HSUS, presented a well organized **Guideline for Foster Care and Non-Sheltered Organizations**, while Connie Howard, AHA, in **A Look at Adoptions**, discussed policies and procedures for ensuring their success. Judy Kirkendall, of the Department of Criminal Justice Services, presented a progress report on the work of the



VFHS President Peggy Allen presented a workshop on humane education in the classroom.

**Animal Control Officer Job Task Analysis Committee** in developing training standards for animal control officers. Teresa Dockery, Federation Advisor on legislative issues, summarized the animal-related bills passed by the 2001 General Assembly. She also presented methods of **Using State Laws to the Locality's Advantage**, which was accompanied with copies of sample ordinances.

In the workshop on **Human Resources 101** Julie Morris, of the ASPCA, provided program ideas for laying the foundation for good employee and volunteer organizational relationships. Peggy Allen, Federation president, presented basic programs and materials for **Humane Education in the Classroom**.

The lunch on Friday was highlighted with recognition of exemplary individuals and organizations for their accomplishments in field of animal welfare.

**Ann Gwilliam** has made a significant impact in outreach efforts for her local humane society, the Gloucester-Mathews SPCA. As Humane Educator, she provides presentations for schools and civic groups and also has done training with local animal control, law enforcement and social service groups, addressing the issue of "Link", the correlation between family violence and animal abuse. In addition, she has developed a Spay Neuter Assistance Program sponsored by local businesses, citizens, and a sister group, The Animal Care Society.

**Dr. Debbie Frank** was honored for her involvement with the SPCA of

Winchester, Frederick and Clarke Counties' free veterinary wellness clinic for low-income families. Dr. Frank was supportive of this program from its very beginning and serves as the Veterinarian in Charge. She provided guidance in license application and determining equipment and supply needs. She continues to contribute to the success of the clinic by volunteering her services at the monthly sessions.

**Kay Gross, DVM** was recognized on an important milestone in her professional career. Dr. Gross, President of the Richmond Spay/Neuter Foundation, recently opened her low-cost spay neuter clinic after several years of research and intensive work.

**Sandy Lerner** was honored for the "Friends of Animals" luncheons, which she has sponsored for several years. The purpose of the sessions is to encourage an exchange of ideas that would enhance the well being of companion animals. The guest list has expanded to encompass all areas of Virginia and the neighboring states of Maryland and West Virginia. Many present at the VFHS Conference have attended the luncheons and have had the benefit of hearing distinguished individuals speak on a variety of important, relevant issues.

**The Augusta County SPCA** was recognized for its support of the VFHS Conference for the past three years. Executive Director Debbie Caywood and her staff have welcomed visitors to their beautifully maintained and managed facility. They have been instrumental in providing hands-on workshops. Also, in July, members of the Virginia House Agriculture Committee toured the Augusta County SPCA, gaining important first hand knowledge of the issues that those of us in animal welfare deal with on a daily basis. The Augusta County SPCA has served as a model for individuals and groups seeking a well-run facility.

**Teresa Dockery**, past president of VFHS, was honored for her tireless energy and continuing efforts to help the animals in our Commonwealth. These

activities include legislative issues and government affairs. She is also very active in meeting with new groups around the state who are interested in becoming involved in animal welfare. She spends long hours addressing the needs of shelters and pounds and is proactive in soliciting support for raising their level of compliance.

A lively social hour Friday afternoon concluded with drawings for the many door prizes supplied by vendors and exhibitors. Exclamations of delight were heard from the lucky winners as they departed for their evening meal.

The Virginia Federation of Humane Societies is very grateful for the wonderful support of the sponsoring organizations, the volume of information provided by talented speakers, and the generous supply of materials and door prizes donated by the vendors.

In addition, appreciation is expressed to the staffs of the Wildlife Center of Virginia and the Augusta County SPCA for the tours provided for attendees as they departed from the lofty heights of Afton Mountain.

**Mark your Calendar !**

**Virginia Federation of Humane Societies**

**2002 Conference**

**March 22 and 23, 2002**

**Holiday Inn Golf and Conference Center**

**Staunton, Virginia**

**More information coming in your fall Member's Packet**



**Kay Gross, DVM at the door of the Richmond Spay/Neuter Foundation low-cost spay/neuter clinic.**



**Past VFHS President Teresa Dockery is congratulated on the award for her continuing contributions to VFHS.**



**Sandy Lerner (right) was honored for her outreach initiative in helping to create a kinder, safer world for companion animals.**

## 2000 General Assembly Session— Animal Legislation

### Passed

#### **HB 2269 Relating to the confinement and disposition of animals by animal shelters. (Support)**

Patrons – James M. Shuler and W. G. Keister

Authorizes animal shelters to confine and dispose of dogs running at large without the required tag or in violation of a local ordinance, dogs not licensed as required by law, and cats in violation of local ordinances regarding licensure or running at large. Any animal shelter confining or disposing of such animals must be inspected by the State Veterinarian and operated in accordance with regulations issued by the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services, be open to the public during reasonable business hours, and be located outside of a residential dwelling. The operator of an animal shelter that confines or disposes of such animals must comply with certain reporting requirements.

#### **HB 1765 Confinement and disposition of animals by animal shelters. (Support Substitute)**

Opposed the original version that provided that an animal shelter would not be accessed civil penalties if it had demonstrated good faith in achieving compliance after notification of a violation of any laws governing the care or protection of animals.

Patron – L. Preston Bryant, Jr.

The substitute delays the enactment of the civil penalties specified in 3.1-796.96 and 3.1-796.120 until 1/1/2002.

#### **HB 2152 Relating to the regulation to prevent the spread of rabies by raccoons. (Support)**

Patrons – Kristen J. Amundson; David B. Albo; James F. Almand; Richard H. Black; Thomas Bolvin; Robert H. Brink; Vincent F. Callahan, Jr.; Jeannemarie A. Devolites; James H. Dillard, II; Robert D. Hull; Roger J. McClure; Jay O'Brien; Kenneth R. Plum; John H. Rust, Jr.; James M. Scott; Marian Van Lantham; Vivian E. Watts

Provides that any county that has adopted the urban county executive form of government (Fairfax County) may create

an oral rabies vaccine distribution program. An ordinance creating the program must provide for notice to affected property owners and contain procedures for a property owner to be excluded from the program. Note: For more information see [www.co.fairfax.va.us/service/hd/rabies01/htm](http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/service/hd/rabies01/htm)

#### **SB 1339 Deer fences. (Support)**

Patron – Charles R. Hawkins

Prohibits a landowner from erecting a fence that prevents or impedes deer from leaving the enclosed area. The bill also makes it unlawful to hunt deer in such enclosed areas. The penalty for violating either of these provisions is a Class 1 misdemeanor, and the court may (i) suspend the violator's hunting privileges for a period of three to five years, (ii) order the owner of the property to compensate the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for the replacement costs of the killed deer, and (iii) order the owner to modify the fence in a way that will allow the deer to leave the enclosed area. The bill also includes a delayed effective date of November 1, 2001. The substitute grandfathers the 4 existing enclosures provided they modify their fences in a manner approved by the Department of Game to allow the free egress of deer and that they register with the Department of Game each year. The registration is not transferable.

#### **HB 2105 Relating to the importation or breeding of certain dogs in certain counties. (No Position)**

Patrons – S. Steven Landes; William J. Howell; J. Randy Forbes; William C. Mims

Repeals Chapter 167 of the 1938 Acts of Assembly, as amended by Chapter 156 of the 1964 Acts of Assembly, which prohibits the importation or breeding of German or Belgian Shepherds in the counties of Rappahannock and Culpeper without first obtaining a special license for these dogs. This is a recommendation of the Virginia Code Commission as part of its annual review of uncodified Acts of Assembly for obsolete provisions in accordance with 9-77.10:2.

#### **HB 1625 Relating to guide, hearing and service dogs in training. (No Position)**

Patron – Robert Tata

Provides that persons designated as guide, hearing or service dog trainers representing an accredited organization that trains and certifies such dogs shall have the right to be accompanied by dogs at least six months of age with clear, visible designation as guide, hearing or service dogs in training (i.e., wearing a jacket identifying the service dog organization, labeling all common carriers and any public conveyance or mode of transportation, and identifying service dogs) in restaurants, hotels, lodging places, places of accommodation, amusement or resort, or other places to which the general public is invited. Such persons shall be liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities by such dog.

#### **SB 1043 and HB 2497 Certificates of veterinary inspection for ornamental aquarium fish or invertebrate animals. (No Position)**

Patrons – Donald L. Williams; P.E. Larrabee

Provides that fish and invertebrate animals are exempt from the requirement of a certificate of veterinary inspection before being imported into Virginia.

#### **HB 2223 and SB 1187 Relating to damaging or destroying agricultural or forestry products, facility or animals; penalty. (No Position)**

Patrons – Malford W. Trumbo; R. Creigh Deeds

Makes it a Class 6 felony if the value of the farm product is \$200 or more, or a Class 1 misdemeanor if the value of the farm product is less than \$200 to maliciously damage or destroy any agricultural or forestry product, facility or animal that is grown or operated for testing or research purposes in the context of product development in conjunction with a private research facility or a university or any federal, state or local government.

**Left in Local Government**

**SB 897 Relating to killing a companion animal; penalty. (Support)**

Patron – W. Roscoe Reynolds

Provides that it is a Class 6 felony to kill a companion animal.

Left in Senate Agriculture Conservation and Natural Resources

**HB 2256 Child abuse and neglect; animal control officers.**

**Support** original version provided there are funds appropriated for training or adequate time is allocated to receive the training.)

Substitute doesn't require reporting but requires training to report suspected cases of child abuse as part of the 15 hours of required continuing education for animal control officers every 3 years.

**Support** if altered to be in addition to the currently required 15 hours.

Patron – Vivian E. Watts

Requires animal control officers, humane investigators, and State Veterinarian's representatives to report suspected child abuse or neglect in the same manner as law-enforcement officers and teachers.

Note: This carries a penalty of \$500 for failure to report a suspicion of child abuse or neglect.

**Stricken at request of patron in House Rules**

**HJR 628 Establishing a joint subcommittee to examine the problem of litter, trash, and graffiti along public highways. (Support)**

Patrons – Flora D. Crittenden; William

K. Barlow; Viola O. Baskerville; Mary T. Christian; L. Karen Darner; Barnie K. Day; Alan A. Diamonstein; Dwight C. Jones; Jerrauld C. Jones; A. Donald McEachin; Lionell Spruill, Sr.; Vivian E. Watts

**Tabled in House Rules**

HJR 633 Requests the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to study the total impact of damage done by deer in the Commonwealth, including, but not limited to, damage to crops, private property, automobiles, and aircraft operations, and incidents that result in personal injury. (Support)

Patrons – Barnie K. Day; Jackie T. Stump

**To obtain bill copies: 804-698-1500 or <http://legis.state.va.us/>**

**2000 Statewide Summary Report: January 1–December 31, 2000**

**Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

**Numbers Received:**

Species	On Hand January 1	Stray	Seized	Bite Cases	Surrendered by Owner	Received VA locality	Others	TOTAL
Dogs	8,631	80,364	4,799	2,172	47,649	8,918	1,660	154,193
Cats	7,079	49,199	1,124	1,873	49,723	5,573	1,585	116,156
Other	209	837	132	71	2,483	50	59	3,841
Hybrid Canines	10	10	1	10	12	–	10	53
Equine	73	69	62	–	41	4	10	259
Livestock	15	932	38	–	42	13	5	1,045
Poultry	162	319	69	–	269	58	2	879
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>16,179</b>	<b>131,730</b>	<b>6,225</b>	<b>4,126</b>	<b>100,219</b>	<b>14,616</b>	<b>3,331</b>	<b>276,426</b>

	Picked up dead	Relocated/Released	Euthanized	Total Handled
<b>Wildlife</b>	6,807	6,918	6,646	20,371

**Manner/Method of Disposal:**

Species	Re-claimed by owner	Adopted	Transferred to another VA locality	Transferred to approved out of state facility	Transferred or sold as stated in 3.1-796.96	Died in facility	Euthanized	Misc	On hand Dec. 31	TOTAL
Dogs	25,139	38,562	10,324	1,634	449	1,489	70,667	671	3,761	152,696
Cats	2,729	35,218	6,801	166	17	1,242	71,959	345	3,585	122,092
Other	236	2,162	124	2	–	54	1,195	66	234	4,073
Hybrid Canines	–	9	8	–	–	2	19	–	–	38
Equine	103	66	2	–	–	1	24	–	58	254
Livestock	666	95	34	–	3	1	20	25	5	849
Poultry	136	246	37	–	2	35	66	181	157	860
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>29,039</b>	<b>76,358</b>	<b>17,330</b>	<b>1,802</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>2,824</b>	<b>143,950</b>	<b>1,288</b>	<b>7,800</b>	<b>280,862</b>

**Virginia Federation of Humane Societies**  
**826 Oakwood Drive**  
**Harrisonburg, VA 22801-3924**

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Permit No. 9  
Harrisonburg, VA



**Address Service Requested**

## **Not One, but Two Spay/Neuter Postal Stamps in 2002!**

It's official! The United States Postal Service will be issuing the Spay/Neuter Your Pet Stamp as part of its U.S. Stamp Program for 2002. And, it won't be issued as one stamp, but two. The Neuter Your Pet Stamp will depict a mixed breed dog while the Spay your Pet Stamp will show a mixed breed cat. The artwork for the stamps will be unveiled to the public on October 17th. It is anticipated that the stamps will be

issued around September, 2002.

The Prevent a Litter Coalition (PaLC) proposed the stamp and orchestrated the campaign for its approval. Through their efforts, nearly 200,000 letters requesting the stamp were received by the U.S. Postal Service.

PaLC will be working closely with the USPS during the next year to plan the promotional efforts for both the October

unveiling of the stamps' design and the launch celebration in 40,000 post offices nationwide in conjunction with the stamp's going on sale, in about a year. PaLC will be partnering with the USPS to plan great promotional tie-ins and educational opportunities aimed at maximizing the stamp's impact.

Our thanks to PaLC for the information in this article.

## **More People than Ever are Choosing Shelters**

A new survey by the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association reveals that 20 percent of pet owners are now adopting their pets from animal shelters..

As the number of people turning to shelters increases, the number obtaining cats and dogs from breeders and newspapers appears to be on the decline. People purchasing animals from pet stores remained at eight percent to nine percent for dogs and five percent for cats. Just

one percent of bird owners and one percent of reptile owners had adopted animals from shelters, as had six percent of ferret and rabbit owners.

The number of households with pets is 63.4 million, up from 61.2 million in 1998. Dog owning households increased by two percent and cats by eight percent. Almost thirteen percent of households own fish, seven percent own birds, five percent own small animals and four percent own reptiles.

### **Upcoming Events**

VACA Conference      Oct. 24-26  
Roanoke, Virginia

Adopt a Shelter              October  
Dog Month

National Animal              Nov. 4-10  
Shelter Appreciation  
Week

# 2001–2002 Law Book Order Form

**Cost:**

\$10.00 per copy,  
including postage

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Order now  
while they last!

**Mail to:**

Teresa Dockery  
24237 Mock Knob Road  
Abington, VA 24211

**Questions:**

Phone: 423-968-9136  
Email: dockery@naxs.net

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This publication is a must for animal welfare organizations, humane investigators, animal control officers, and others working in the field of animal welfare. Conveniently sized to fit in a pocket or purse, it includes the Virginia Comprehensive Animal Laws, other Code sections that

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pertain to animals, and the 2001 amendments to the Code.

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

